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March 20th.

MR. CASSIN, Vice-President in the Chair.

Twenty-seven members present.

The following were offered for publication :

"List of the Birds of Fort Whipple, Arizona." By Elliot Coues, M D.

"Description of twelve Unionidæ from South America." By Isaac Lea.

"Fasti Ornithologiæ, No. 2." By John Cassin.

Dr. Leidy directed the attention of the members to the specimen of a large phalanx of an extinct reptile, presented this evening by Dr. W. Spillman, of Columbus, Mississippi. It was derived from the cretaceous formation in the vicinity of the latter place, and is remarkably well preserved. It is a first phalanx, and in general form resembles the corresponding phalanges of the Alligator, but is proportionately more robust. The proximal articular surface is moderately concave, somewhat uneven; and in outline is transverse oval with the lower side flat. The distal extremity is provided with a trochlear articular surface, and deep pits laterally for ligamentous attachment. The animal to which the bone belonged is unknown; it may be conjectured to have appertained to the fore foot of Hadosaurus. The measurements are as follows: Length in the axis 5 inches 8 lines; length laterally 6 inches; transverse diameter of proximal end 2 inches 11 lines; vertical diameter of do. 2 inches 5 lines; transverse diameter of distal end inferiorly 2 inches 5½ lines; vertical diameter at middle of trochlea 1 inch 6 lines.

Dr. Leidy next directed the attention of the members to a specimen of the liver of a turkey suspended in alcohol, containing half a dozen cream-colored tumors, from the size of a pea to that of a nutmeg. The tumors examined microscopically appear to have the structure of soft cancer, as usually described, being composed of large nucleated cells in great variety of form. Dr. L. stated that, after having dined on part of the turkey, on making inquiry for the missing liver, the cook had given information, that in consequence of the "white lumps in it, it had not been cooked." On procuring it from the slops, it was found to be in the condition described. Dr. L. took the opportunity of expressing the opinion that an unnecessary degree of alarm had been created in the community in relation to what were considered to be diseased meats, especially such as are infested with parasites. While he most decidedly recommended the avoidance of the flesh of diseased or unwholesome animals, he thought that all parasites would be destroyed by thorough cooking.

In answer to a question from one of the members, whether he had noticed *Trichina* in pork, Dr. L. observed that he had been the first to discover this parasite in the hog; the discovery having been made twenty years ago, as may be seen by referring to the Proceedings of this Academy for October, 1846, page 107—8. This notice had attracted the attention of the German helminthologists, as proved by reference to Diesing's *Systema Helminthum*, vol. ii. page 114, and Leuckart, *Untersuchungen ü. Trichina spiralis*, pages 6, 18.

The circumstances under which the *Trichina* had been first detected in pork, was on an occasion when Dr. L. had dined on part of the infested meat. While eating a slice of pork, he noticed some minute specks, which recalled to mind the *Trichina* spots seen in the muscles of a human subject only a few days previously. Preserving the remainder of the slice, on examination of it microscopically, he found it full of *Trichina spiralis*, but the parasites were all dead from the heat of cooking. In conclusion, Dr. L. observed that all meats were liable to be infested with parasites, but that there was no danger from infection if the meats were thoroughly cooked, for he had satisfied himself by experiment that entozoa are destroyed when submitted to the temperature of boiling water.

1866.]